

selfless efforts to promote a healthier America.●

HONORING ELEANOR McGOVERN

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I wish to publicly honor and recognize one of South Dakota's favorite daughters, Eleanor McGovern, who died on January 25, 2007, at the age of 85. A memorial service is being held today for Eleanor, and I know my colleagues all join with me in expressing our sympathies to the McGovern family. While we do mourn her passing, we also celebrate her extraordinarily successful life working to better the lives of the people of South Dakota and people around the world.

Born in Woonsocket, SD, in 1921, Eleanor grew up on a farm during the Dust Bowl years of the 1930s. Her strong work ethic and her lifelong concern and compassion for others were instilled in her by her childhood experiences. When her mother died when she was 12 years old, Eleanor and her twin sister, Ila, took over all household responsibilities, helping their father raise their younger sister. Eleanor attended high school in Woonsocket and met her future husband, former Senator George McGovern, while attending Dakota Wesleyan University. After graduation she worked as a legal secretary before marrying Senator McGovern on October 31, 1943.

Throughout her life, Eleanor achieved many impressive accomplishments. She was a board member of Dakota Wesleyan University, the Psychiatric Institute, the Child Study Association, the Erickson Institute of Chicago, and Odyssey House of New York. Eleanor also volunteered for the Child Development Center. She was named an Outstanding Citizen in 1975 by Dakota Wesleyan University and awarded an honorary doctorate in humane letters in 1997.

In addition to all these accomplishments she was a devoted mother of five. Throughout the years, she provided a stable and loving home environment for her children and helped facilitate her husband's service to the Nation. During Senator McGovern's Presidential campaign, he described her as his most helpful critic and most trusted adviser.

Eleanor also authored her memoir, "Uphill: A Personal Story," which was published in 1973. Following the death of her daughter Terry in 1994, she showed remarkable courage by speaking publicly about the tragedy of alcoholism and how it impacted her family. In addition, she helped establish the McGovern Family Foundation for researching alcoholism.

Throughout her life she worked tirelessly to improve the lives of others, especially the lives of women and children; she published articles on child development while also traveling the Nation to address the problems facing

American families. There are few people who have done as much to better the lives of the women and children of South Dakota.

Eleanor is survived by her husband Senator McGovern; 4 children—Ann McGovern, Susan McGovern, Mary McGovern-McKinnon, and Steve McGovern—10 grandchildren; and 6 great-grandchildren.

It is with great honor that I speak of the accomplishments of Eleanor McGovern and with great sadness that I mark her passing.●

HONORING MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Montclair State University, MSU, on its 100th anniversary. Over the past century, MSU has grown from its humble beginnings as the New Jersey State Normal School with just 187 students into one of the premier educational institutions in the State of New Jersey.

Montclair State University began as a teacher's college and, to this day, continues to train the Nation's finest educators. However, the school's curriculum has expanded to include a comprehensive range of first-class undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs. With over 16,000 students and 465 full-time faculty members, MSU is currently the second-largest and fastest-growing university in New Jersey, and has a diverse student body that reflects New Jersey's population.

Much of the University's success can be attributed to its steadfast dedication to outstanding faculty, exceptional teaching, and quality of scholarship. The university is led by a dedicated and talented team focused on meeting the many needs of its students and the surrounding community. MSU manages to provide the individual attention of a small college, while also offering a vast array of majors and concentrations.

Mr. President, the students and alumni of Montclair State University have much to be proud of as they celebrate 100 years of academia. I applaud MSU for its many years of service, and I wish the university continued success in the years ahead.●

THE HONORABLE H. EMORY WIDENER, JR.

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, today I have a heavy heart. It is with great regret that I share with the Senate that the Honorable H. Emory Widener, Jr.—one of our country's extraordinary jurists, an exceptional Virginian, and a good friend—has passed away. For 38 years, he served our Nation and Virginia as a member of the Federal judiciary.

Our Nation has lost one of its finest jurists, someone who was universally

admired for his dedication to the Constitution, to the laws passed by the Congress and subsequently enacted, and to the impartial treatment of those who appeared before him.

Emory Widener started his career in public service by entering the Naval Academy in Annapolis. Responding to the call of duty, he served as an officer in the final year of World War II. He later served in the Korean war and received an honorable discharge in 1958. Following 2 years in the Naval Reserves, he began law school at Washington and Lee University, and upon graduation he returned to that region of Virginia which he loved so dearly, southwest Virginia, to enter private practice in Bristol.

In 1969, Emory Widener was nominated for a lifetime appointment to the Federal court as a U.S. district judge for the Western District of Virginia and was promptly confirmed by the Senate. After an unusually brief period of time, only 2 years, he became the chief judge of this Federal court. In 1972, he was nominated for a seat on the Fourth Circuit and again received an expedient confirmation by the Senate.

By his extraordinarily well written opinions, Judge Widener became a legend on the Fourth Circuit. Judge Widener's exemplary judgment and integrity were profound assets to this important court, and I always have had a deep admiration and respect for this magnificent man and jurist. He was a legal giant in Virginia, a legal giant in America's Federal courts, and his service as a jurist should be a model for others.

Without question, southwest Virginia has lost one of its dearest friends. Yet the region can everlastingly point with great pride and admiration to the achievements of one of its greatest sons. He will be missed not only in Abingdon, VA, where he kept his office, but also by his fellow jurists, those who practiced before him, and throughout the Commonwealth and the Nation.

We all join in extending our deepest sympathies to his family and his friends as they mourn his passing.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a treaty which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)